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STATE OF NEW JERSEY  
DEPARTMENT OF LAW & PUBLIC SAFETY  
DIVISION OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS  
NEW JERSEY STATE REAL ESTATE  
APPRAISERS BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF : Administrative Action  
:  
ROSS M. RAIMOND :  
License #42B00037100 : **FINAL ORDER**  
:  
TO ENGAGE IN THE PRACTICE OF : **OF DISCIPLINE**  
REAL ESTATE APPRAISING IN :  
THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY :

This matter was opened to the New Jersey State Real Estate Appraisers Board (the "Board") upon receipt of information which the Board has reviewed and upon which the following findings of fact and conclusions of law are made:

1. Respondent is a State Certified Residential Real Estate Appraiser in the State of New Jersey, and has been a licensee at all times relevant hereto.

2. Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 45:14F-18 and N.J.A.C. 13:40A-5.3, all licensed and certified real estate appraisers are required to complete all continuing education requirements established by "The Real Property Appraiser Qualification and Criteria and Interpretations of the Criteria" promulgated by the Appraisal Qualifications Board of the Appraisal Foundation (the "AQB"), and the AQB requirements are incorporated by reference in the Board's regulations. For the two year period between January 1, 2008 and December 31, 2009, the AQB Qualification Criteria mandated that appraisers complete a minimum of twenty-eight class hours of approved continuing education.

3. Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 13:40A-5.4, all licensed and certified appraisers are required to complete a seven hour National Update Course on the Uniform Standards of Professional Appraisal Practice ("USPAP"), or its equivalent, at least once every 24 months. The AQB Qualification Criteria similarly mandate that appraisers must successfully complete the 7 hour USPAP Update Course, or its equivalent, every two calendar years.

4. Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 13:40A-5.8, licensees or certificate holders are required to maintain documentation for at least four years of continuing education hours completed in order to verify program attendance and/or activity completion.

5. On or about November 6, 2009, respondent completed and submitted a biennial licensure registration form, for the period January 1, 2010 through December 31, 2011 to the Board, and respondent's license was then renewed by the Board through December 31, 2011.

6. Respondent was asked on the biennial renewal application whether respondent "completed the continuing education requirement during the past two years," referring to the biennial renewal period of January 1, 2008 through December 31, 2009. The renewal application included "specific instructions" regarding this question, which read:

As a condition of renewal, licensees are required to obtain at least 28 credit hours of approved continuing education for each biennial renewal period subsequent to licensure/certification or 14 hours of continuing education if initially licensed or certified in the first six months of the second year. If initially

licensed or certified during the last six months of the second year, no continuing education is required. If you are exempt from this requirement for this renewal period only, please answer "yes" to this question. Credits may not be carried over to another renewal period.

Respondent answered "yes" to the question.

7. Respondent was asked on the biennial renewal form whether respondent successfully completed the seven hour National USPAP Update Course, or its equivalent, during the past two years, referring to the biennial period of January 1, 2008 through December 31, 2009. The renewal application included "specific instructions" regarding this question, which read:

As a condition of renewal, licensees must successfully complete the seven-hour National USPAP Update Course, or its equivalent, at a minimum of every two years. Equivalency shall be determined through the AQB Course Approval Program or by an alternate method established by the AQB.

Respondent answered "yes" to this question.

8. Respondent certified, when submitting the renewal application, that all of the information on the renewal form was true and complete to the best of respondent's knowledge, and acknowledged awareness that if any of the information submitted was willfully false, respondent would be subject to punishment and/or disciplinary sanction to include license suspension or revocation or the imposition of civil penalties as provided by law.

9. After January 1, 2010, the Board commenced a continuing education audit, asking a random sampling of its licensees to

submit documentation to verify completion of required continuing education. Respondent was selected for inclusion within the continuing education audit.

10. On or about February 19, 2010, all licensees selected for inclusion in the audit were sent a notice, by regular mail, addressed to the address of record that the licensee maintained with the Board, advising of the need to supply copies of documentation maintained to verify continuing education hours claimed. On or about April 13, 2010, those licensees who failed to respond to the first notice were sent a second notice by the Board detailing the need to supply documentation to verify continuing education claims. The second notice was sent both certified and regular mail.

11. Respondent failed to respond to any of the notices that were forwarded to respondent regarding the need to supply documentation verifying completion of required continuing education.

#### CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Respondent's failure to have responded to any of the notices that were sent requiring respondent to supply documentation verifying the claimed completion of required continuing education constitutes a violation of the Uniform Duty to Cooperate Regulation, N.J.A.C. 13:45C-1.2 and 1.3, which in turn subjects respondent to sanctions pursuant to N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(e).

By virtue of failing to have responded to the two notices,

respondent is deemed to have failed to demonstrate, to the satisfaction of the Board, the completion of any hours of continuing education for the two year period between January 1, 2008 and December 31, 2009, and to have failed to demonstrate completion of the required 7 hour USPAP Update Course, or its equivalent. The Board therefore finds respondent in violation of both N.J.A.C. 13:40A-5.3 and 13:40A-5.4, which in turn subjects respondent to sanctions pursuant to N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(e) and (h).

Based on the above findings and conclusions, the Board further finds that respondent falsely certified on the renewal application that all responses to all questions that were asked on the application were true. By doing so, the Board finds that respondent engaged in misrepresentation, and is therefore subject to sanction pursuant to N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(b).

Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 13:40A-7.10(a), licensees shall notify the Board of any change of address within ten days of the change. Service to the licensee's address of record shall be deemed adequate notice pursuant to N.J.A.C. 13:40A-7.10(b).

#### DISCUSSION

Based on the foregoing findings and conclusions, a Provisional Order of Discipline provisionally suspending respondent's license to practice and imposing a civil penalty was entered on April 8, 2011. Copies were served upon respondent via regular and certified mail. The Provisional Order was subject to finalization by the Board at 5:00 p.m. on the thirtieth day

following entry unless respondent requested a modification or dismissal of the stated findings of fact and conclusions of law by setting forth in writing any and all reasons why said findings and conclusions should be modified or dismissed and submitting any and all documents or other written evidence supporting respondent's request for consideration and reasons therefor.

Respondent timely responded to the Provisional Order of Discipline by providing evidence of completing at least 28 hours of continuing education during the biennial cycle of January 1, 2008 through December 31, 2009. Respondent, however was unable to demonstrate that he had taken a 7 hour USPAP Update course during that time frame. Respondent provided evidence of completing the 7 hour USPAP Update course in the biennial cycles before and after the requested time frame. Respondent maintained that he had not received any of the audit notices from the Board and advised that he would make certain his address and all contact information was correct for future contact.

The Board reviewed Respondent's submissions and determined that further proceedings were not necessary and that no material discrepancies had been raised. The Board was not persuaded that the submitted materials merited further consideration, as Respondent did not dispute the findings of fact or conclusions of law. Inasmuch as Respondent provided the information originally requested, the Board determined that suspension was no longer warranted.

WHEREFORE, it is on this 3<sup>rd</sup> day of March, 2012

ORDERED that:

1. Respondent is hereby assessed a civil penalty in the aggregate amount of \$1000. Said penalty is an aggregate penalty, which includes, as applicable (where checked below), a penalty in the amount of:

       \$1000 for having provided false answers to two questions on the biennial renewal application (that is, falsely claiming completion of 28 hours of continuing education credit and falsely claiming completion of a 7 hour USPAP-Update Course, or its equivalent; or

  X   \$500 for having provided a false answer to one question on the biennial renewal application (that is, falsely claiming completion of 28 hours of continuing education credit or falsely claiming completion of a 7 hour USPAP-Update Course, or its equivalent;

and/or

       \$1000 for failing to have completed between 22 and 28 hours of required continuing education;

       \$750 for failing to have completed between 15 and 21 hours of required continuing education;

       \$500 for failing to have completed between 8 and 14 hours of required continuing education;

       \$250 for failing to have completed between 1 and 7 hours of required continuing education;

and/or

  X   \$500 for failing to have completed a 7 hour USPAP-Update Course, or its equivalent.

NEW JERSEY STATE REAL  
ESTATE APPRAISER BOARD

By: 

Denise M. Siegel  
Board President